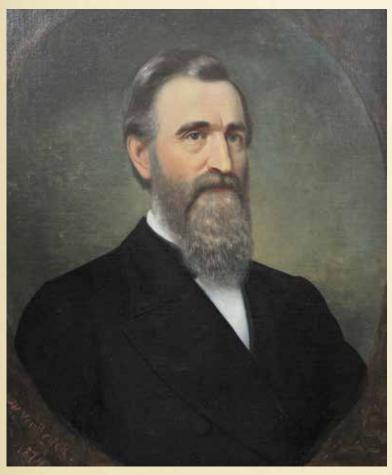
## **Kentucky Historical Society**

## CIVIL WAR TO CIVIL RIGHTS: GOVERNOR BRAMLETTE'S EULOGY TO LINCOLN



Kentucky Historical Society collections

LOUISVILLE — Kentucky's Union governor, Thomas E. Bramlette, did not always agree with President Abraham Lincoln, especially over slavery issues. Bramlette's eulogy to Lincoln showed the conflicted nature of his governorship and Kentucky's role in the Union.

Speaking to citizens in Louisville,
Bramlette reflected on his state — a
place where liberty for some still
meant slavery for others, a place
where "standing as we did in local
positions, surrounded as we were by
local prejudices," we failed to live up to
the title of Commonwealth."

Finally, recognizing how such a
Kentucky would fare "when the
judgment of future events has come,"
Bramlette challenged himself and the
state to climb to Lincoln's "elevated
stand-point," to strive to fulfill Lincoln's

vision of a government of all the people, by all the people and for all the people.

Put more simply, Bramlette told the audience, "We find we were differing blindly; that he was right and we were wrong."

The Kentucky Historical Society (KHS) links Kentuckians with their past via archival collections that document people from every walk of life, reaching back to 1509. The KHS's "Civil War Governors of Kentucky" is a multiyear project dedicated to publishing documents associated with all five of the state's Civil War governors: the three Union governors, Beriah Magoffin (1859 – 1862), James F. Robinson (1862 – 1863) and Thomas E. Bramlette (1863 – 1867); and the two provisional Confederate governors, George W. Johnson (1861 – 1862) and Richard Hawes (1862 – 1865).



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